

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: U.S. PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION OF GRAIN RESERVES,
LONDON, FEBRUARY 10-11, 1975

REF: STATE 279906

1. RESPONSES TO REFTEL TO DATE HAVE RAISED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS OF POSSIBLE GENERAL INTEREST ABOUT U.S. PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION OF GRAIN RESERVES. OUR VIEWS ON THESE POINTS GIVEN BELOW. POSTS MAY PROVIDE ANY OR ALL OF FOLLOWING INFORMATION, EXCEPT WHERE NOTED, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. POSTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO REQUESTED REPORT REACTION TO U.S. PROPOSAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. GOVERNMENTS INVITED--WE HAVE INVITED CANADA, AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA, EEC, EGYPT, BRAZIL, INDIA, JAPAN, THAILAND, USSR AND THE PRC. AUSTRALIA AND BRAZIL HAVE ACCEPTED; EC, JAPAN, CANADA, EGYPT AND THAILAND HAVE INDICATED INTENTION TO DO SO. STOCKHOLM FYI. SWEDEN HAS INQUIRED ABOUT MEETING BUT, AS YET, HAS NOT EXPRESSED DEFINITE INTEREST IN BEING INCLUDED. END FYI. EARLIER CONVERSATIONS AND INITIAL REACTIONS LEAD US TO BELIEVE FINAL RESPONSES FROM MOST WILL BE POSITIVE. WE RECOGNIZE OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL HAVE

INTEREST IN OUTCOME OF LONDON MEETING, BUT FEEL INITIAL AD HOC DISCUSSIONS DIRECTED TOWARD PURPOSES OUTLINED PARA. 4 REFTEL SHOULD BE CONFINED SOLELY TO GOVERNMENTS. WE THEREFORE DO NOT INTEND TO INVITE REPRESENTATION FROM ANY MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA--WE WILL SEND OUT DRAFT AGENDA IN ADVANCE OF MEETING, WITH FINAL AGENDA TO BE ADOPTED BY PARTICIPANTS AT OUTSET OF MEETING. OUR VIEW IS THAT MAJOR EMPHASIS IN MEETING SHOULD BE ON ORGANIZING WORK OF FUTURE SESSIONS AND WE EXPECT FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BY PARTICIPANTS ON NATURE OF A GRAINS RESERVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT.

4. VENUE--TIME AND PLACE FOR FEBRUARY MEETING SELECTED AS MOST CONVENIENT TO MOST INVITEES, SINCE IT IMMEDIATELY PRECEDES INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL TO WHICH GOVERNMENTS ARE LIKELY TO SEND MANY OF SAME DELEGATES. AS EXPLAINED REFTEL, AD HOC MEETING WOULD NOT BE UNDER IWC AUSPICES, ALTHOUGH U.S. CONSIDERING PROPOSING IWC

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PAROTTE AS INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN FOR MEETING. FORUM FOR ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS OF RESERVE AGREEMENT WOULD BE A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSIONS AT LONDON MEETING.

5. FOR BRUSSELS. YOUR 0447 SUGGESTS EC MAY TAKE RIGID LINE ON CONDUCTING FURTHER RESERVES DISCUSSIONS ONLY IN MTN CONTEXT. WE HOPE THAT PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF COMMISSIONS EARLIER STATED VIEW THAT THE COMMISSION CANNOT MAKE COMMITMENTS AT LONDON MEETING, WE ASSUME IT WILL SHOW FLEXIBILITY ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES AND WILL BE PREPARED TO HEAR AND CONSIDER OTHER POINTS OF VIEW LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT LONDON.

6. COMPOSITION OF US DELEGATION--WE EXPECT US DELEGATION TO BE HEADED BY POLICY LEVEL USG OFFICIAL, AT DEPUTY OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL, WITH REPRESENTATION FROM APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES. WE HOPE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION FOR THIS INITIAL MEETING WILL REFLECT STRONG INTEREST IN GRAIN RESERVE QUESTION.

7. GRAINS TO BE INCLUDED IN RESERVES--THIS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT LONDON MEETING AND IN SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS. IN ADDITION TO WHEAT, RESERVES COULD INCLUDE COARSE GRAINS AND POSSIBLY RICE.

8. FYI ONLY. WE EXPECT TO PROPOSE SEPARATE MEETING OF FIVE MAIN WHEAT EXPORTERS, (US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA AND EEC) IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO LONDON MEETING. END FYI. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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